

WISHA REGIONAL DIRECTIVE

Department of Labor and Industries

Division of Occupational Safety and Health

1.00 DOSH Policy Process

Date Issued: July 7, 2006

I. Background

Since December of 1996, DOSH policy and procedures have been found in three distinct sources: DOSH Operations Manuals (such as the DOSH Compliance and DOSH Consultation Manuals), WISHA Regional Directives (which may address either interpretive or operations issues), and WISHA Interim Operations and Interpretive Memoranda.

Questions have periodically been raised about the relationship between WISHA Regional Directives and interim memos. Because both represent DOSH policy, and both can provide authoritative guidance regarding either interpretive or operational issues, the distinction between the two has become largely internal and otherwise artificial. For that reason, this change has been developed to further simplify the DOSH policy processes.

II. Scope and Application

This WISHA Regional Directive (WRD) will remain in effect indefinitely, and it applies to all formal policy guidance provided to all DOSH staff, including staff working for DOSH Services and DOSH consultation, DOSH enforcement and risk management staff located in the regions. This WRD replaces and rescinds WRD 1.00, issued August 24, 1999.

III. Operations Protocols

A. *Where can I find formal DOSH policy guidance?*

DOSH policy issued after the date of this memo will be found either in one of the DOSH Operations Manuals or a WISHA Regional Directive (WRD).

WISHA Interim Memoranda published prior to the date of this document will remain in effect until repealed.

WRDs published prior to 1996 were canceled in December of 1996 and are no longer in effect unless specifically referenced in a subsequent policy document

B. How are changes to the Operations Manuals developed?

Before changes to DOSH Operations Manuals are made, Central Office will receive and consider input from regional staff and managers as appropriate depending upon the nature and scope of the change being considered.

Changes will be published by DOSH Operations as updates to the particular manual or manuals.

C. How are WISHA Regional Directives developed?

New or revised WRDs will ordinarily be circulated in draft form for regional comments for at least 10 days before being issued by the Assistant Director for DOSH Services, the Deputy Assistant Director, or the Compliance Program Administrator; all affected supervisors will also normally have the opportunity to discuss such documents with central office staff before they are finalized. In the event that circumstances do not allow for such comments and review before the WRD is issued, regional comments will still be considered and a revised WRD will be issued if necessary.

Approved: _____
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